

## **FY 2007 Annual Program Performance Measures**

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**DEPARTMENT:** MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**APPROPRIATION UNIT:** Boards and Commissions

**PROGRAM:** Commission on Disability Concerns

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**TIMELINE:** October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

**FUND SOURCE:**

Federal Funds  
State GF/GP Funds

**LEGAL BASIS:**

Public Act 111 of 1968

**CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION:**

Customers - Legislature; Governor, and citizens of the State of Michigan that use or receive our services.

**MCDC Mission:**

The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns serves as a statewide disability advocate and provides information and technical assistance. The Commission is a resource for employers, state and local government, people with disabilities, families and the general public.

MCDC houses the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Both MCDC and DODHH have separate Governor appointed advisory bodies. Created in 1949 by Governor Williams, MCDC was established under state law by P.A. 11 in 1968. The Commission is the only state agency with a legislative mandate to serve and respond to all of Michigan's 1.9 million citizens with disabilities regardless of age, type of disability or service outcome. DODHH is the only state government agency that addresses issues of the deaf and hard of hearing. The major accomplishment of the MCDC-DODHH office in 2007 was the unanimous bi-partisan passage of P.A. 23 and 24 which addressed sign language interpreter qualifications and responsibilities throughout the state. DODHH is the sole testing program in Michigan to assess Quality Assurance of sign language interpreters outside of the educational setting and in partnership with the Department of Education has begun a three year initiative to test for performance competencies of the nearly 600 sign language interpreters that serve students in grades K-12.

MCDC-DODHH maintains the state on-line resource directory for disability programs, services and resources. The Bureau also provides a directory of sign language interpreters and partners with a wide range of government and non-government agencies and organizations that advocate on behalf of, and provides services for, persons with disabilities.

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### **OUTCOMES:**

During FY 2007, Bureau staff represented DLEG on the Citizens Committee for Michigan State parks; the DNR Accessibility Council; the Kellogg Foundation Access to Recreation program; the Michigan Jobs Coalition; the state Developmental Disabilities Council; the MSU Social Work Curriculum Development Committee; the National Network of Youth Leadership Forums and the Disability Policy Collaboration based in Washington D.C.

During FY '07, MCDC-DODHH staff responded to over 3,000 phone calls and e-mail inquiries ranging from mobility access to private homes to job accommodations and legal rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Michigan P.A. 220. Staff provided presentations when requested to local work force development programs; law enforcement agencies; military veterans organizations; K-12 and college level faculty and students; civil rights organizations; business groups as well as sport and recreation providers.

Funded in part by Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Michigan Commission for the Blind, MCDC-DODHH staff works closely with the one stop centers and the state navigator program to facilitate full inclusion of persons with disabilities in Michigan's diverse workforce development efforts. MCDC-DODHH conducts the Annual Youth Leadership Forum for high school students with disabilities for one week in June. The \$50,000.00 budget for this high profile program is secured by staff from private sector contributions with the Dow Chemical Foundation being the primary sponsor at \$25,000.00.

DODHH provides training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies and programs at the state, county and local level. Additional training and technical assistance is provided to the health care industry and to groups that plan and respond to community and regional emergency situations. With the new interpreter legislation (P.A. 23 and 24 of 2007) DODHH are convening regular work sessions with interpreter training programs across the state to educate and promote opportunities for careers in sign language interpreting.

During FY '07, MCDC-DODHH staff have become increasingly involved in the ever widening concerns and responses to the needs of Michigan veterans with disabilities. We anticipate that this involvement will continue to expand in 2008.

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### **CHALLENGES:**

The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns and Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDC-DODHH) is currently allotted eight civil service FTEs; seven FTEs are currently filled and we continue to have a vacancy in the Manager 15 position for DODHH which was created with the retirement of Chris Hunter on April 30, 2007. Of the remaining seven positions, the two Commission Rights Representatives are both on extended medical leave including one which will span at least three months.

\*\*\*\*In order to respond to the diverse responsibilities and demands placed on this Bureau, we will work with DLEG, the Governor's office and the state legislature to pursue enhanced revenues for the current fiscal year and particularly for the FY '09 budget. It is critical that the vacancy within DODHH for a Manager 15 be filled as soon as possible. Growing responsibilities in testing, ADA monitoring in a growing population for people with disabilities will require additional resources for MCDC-DODHH in the face of greatly eroded budget resources and staff capacity.